or through Ministry of Finance for investigation/ registration of cases against bank officers of the rank of General Manager and above.

Orders regarding amnesty to exporters abusing VABAL

328. *SHRI AMAR SINGH:* Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued orders to give amnesty to exporters who have misused the Value Based Advance Licence Scheme by availing Modvat credit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of exporters who were liable to be penalised for abusing Modvat concession along with the amount of revenue loss to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDER KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has announced a Scheme permitting reversal of Modvat Credit availed by the exporters of goods under VABAL Scheme in contravention of conditions of the Scheme subject to payment of the Modvat amount wrongly availed with 20% interest per annum for the period the Modvat amount was retained by the manufacturer exporter and supporting manufacturer of the merchant exporter who had declared such details in the Licence/DEEC Book. The amount and interest was required to be paid before 31.1.97, failing which the action as per the Law would be taken.

(c) The number of exporters liable to be penalised and the amount of revenue loss to the exchequer can be quantified after all the relevant records are scrutinised by the Custom Houses and information compiled.

Special Civilian Armed Personnel for Income Tax raids

329. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income tax authorities have demanded for separate special civilian armed personnel to assist them in income tax raids;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken to protect the life and properties of officials entrusted with income tax raids duties?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) All necessary steps are taken for the security of the officials engaged in search duties. Since 'law and order' is a State subject, armed police force is provided by various State Governments for the security of the I.T. search parties. Besides, sufficient number of operational vehicles and communication equipments have been provided to all Directorates for increasing safety and efficiency of the officials engaged in searches.

Newsitem regarding list of Bank Defaulters

330. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "The Famous and Obscure on Bank Defaulters List" which appeared in Business Standard dated 15.8.96 regarding a confidential list of bank defaulters for the year ended March 31, 1995;

(b) if so, the instructions/guidelines to the Bank Chairmen on the follow-up action to be taken about the recovery of the dues from prominent corporates and individuals;

(c) whether any instruction has been passed on to the banks not to issue further loan to the corporate defaulters till recovery of the earlier debts; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Banks have been advised to have documents of loan policy and loan recovery policy prepared and vetted by their Boards of Directors. Thus each bank now has a loan recovery policy which is for the recovery of all the dues including the dues of corporate and individual borrowers. RBI has also put in place a scheme to collect and disseminate information on the defaulting borrowers. The objective of the scheme is to alert banks and financial institutions and put them on guard against borrowers who have defaulted in the repayment

of their dues to lending institutions. Banks have also been advised to ensure maximum recovery at minimum expense through compromise proposals rather than through expensive litigation spread over a long period. For such settlements the banks are required to make proper distinction between wilful defaulters and the borrowers defaulting due to circumstances beyond their control.

Nationalised/Rural Banks in Punjab

331. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the branch-wise number of nationalised banks and rural banks that have been opened in the state of Punjab during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) if so, the district-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any scheme during the current financial year to connect all districts and villages particularly in border areas with bank facilities in the State of Pubjab?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that under 1990—95 Branch Expansion Programme it was decided that future growth of bank offices should be guided only on well established need for offices and financial viability of proposed branches. As such the decision for opening the branches at particular centres is left to the discretion of the banks themselves.

Discontentment on recommened pay scales by Fifth Pay Commission

332. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has submitted its report; if so, the salient recommendations thereof;

(b) whether Government have taken, any decision thereon, if not, by what date will the decision be taken, particularly on the retirement age keeping in view the fact that a large number of Government servants retire every month;

(c) whether the trade unions have expressed their discontentment on the recommendations of the Pay Commission particularly on the vast difference between the lowest and the highest pay scale and virtually no increase in the perks upto the section officer level; and

(d) if so, what action Government is taking to remove the discontentment of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Pay Commission has submitted its final Report on 30th January, 1997 to the Government. The Commission has made wide ranging recommendations covering all aspects of service conditions of the Central Government employees, including the Armed Forces personnel. The Commission has, inter alia, recommended that the age of retirement may be increased from 58 years to 60 years, except for personnel of the Central Police Organisations and the Armed Forces and also excluding those employees who are on extension. Some Associations/Unions of the Central Government Employees have represented to the Government against certain recommendations of the Commission. The Government have set up an Empowered Committee to process the recommendations of the Commission. The views of the employees will be ascertained through the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery and will be kept in view before taking appropriate decisions.

Profit/loss position of Nationalised Banks

333. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the profit and loss position of the nationalised banks, bank-wise in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of scheduled private banks in the country and how many of them are running at a loss, details thereof;

(c) the profit and loss position of the nationalised banks prior to nationalisation;